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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 10/719,523 | 11/21/2003 | Kenneth J. Rothschild | AMBER-08501 | 3365 |
| 7590 | 05/12/2009 | | EXAMINER | |
| MEDLEN & CARROLL, LLP 101 Howard Street, Suite 350 San Francisco, CA 94105 | | | JOIKE, MICHELE K | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | | | |
| | 1636 | | | |
| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE | | | |
| 05/12/2009 | PAPER | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/719,523 | Applicant(s) ROTHSCHILD ET AL. |
| | Examiner MICHELE K. JOIKE | Art Unit 1636 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2009.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,9 and 11-13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,9 and 11-13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1668)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 13, 2009 has been entered.

Receipt is acknowledged of a reply to the previous Office Action, filed February 13, 2009. Claims 1, 9 and 11-13 are pending and examined.

Any rejection of record in the previous Office Action, mailed November 13, 2008 that is not addressed in this action has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 9 and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Little et al (US Patent No. 6,207,370) in view of Garvin et al (US Patent No. 6,329,180; IDS Ref. 1) and in further view of Knop et al.

Claims 1, 9 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Little et al (cited above) in view of Garvin et al (cited above) and in view of Knop et al (cited above) as applied to claims 1, 9 and 11-12 above, and further in view of Elion et al (*Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, Unit 3.17, pages 3.17.1-3.17.10, 1993).

These rejections are maintained for reasons of record.

Response to Arguments Concerning Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103 (a)

Applicants' arguments filed February 13, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The following grounds of traversal are presented:

Both Little and Garvin fail to teach a primer with two epitope markers.

Additionally, neither reference teaches the use of more than two epitope markers. Knop is used by the Examiner to remedy the deficiencies; however, Knop does not disclose the use of a third epitope marker. There is no justification for the combination of references since the Examiner's reasoning fails to deal with the additional function that the third epitope marker would serve. The Examiner is choosing primers from the references to recreate the invention, which is impermissible hindsight.

These arguments are not found persuasive for the following reasons.

Little teaches the use of two epitope markers. Garvin teaches the use of one tag in the 5' primer and a different tag in the 3' primer. Knop teaches that more than one

tag can be used in a primer. It teaches the use of 3HA and 6HA tags, so it teaches the use of more than one tag, i.e., 3 or 6 tags can be used in a single primer. Therefore, Knop teaches a primer (first primer) can comprise two or more epitope tags (first and second epitope markers), which are different. The other, different epitope marker on the second primer as taught by Garvin et al would constitute the "third epitope marker", and the limitations of the claims are met.

In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

Allowable Subject Matter

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHELE K. JOIKE whose telephone number is (571)272-5915. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Low can be reached on (571)272-0951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michele K. Joike/
Examiner, Art Unit 1636

Michele K. Joike
Examiner
Art Unit 1636